

From: [Storm, Pamela](#)
To: [Reynolds, Mary](#)
Cc: [Storm, Pamela](#); [Groendyke, Todd](#)
Subject: RE: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:04:50 PM
Importance: High

Mary,

I do not know what she is talking about regarding EPA condemning the building. Neither EPA nor the FDEP condemned the building.

Here is some asbestos language. My phone number is (404) 562-9197 if she has asbestos questions.

EPA regulates renovation and demolition activities that may involve the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials under 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 61, Subpart M, National Emission Standard for Asbestos (commonly referred to as the Asbestos NESHAP). Asbestos is found in many building materials. If these materials are in good condition, they do not pose a respiratory health hazard unless they are improperly handled during disturbance, such as in repair or removal. The Asbestos NESHAP includes requirements for inspection, notification, work practices, and disposal designed to minimize the release of asbestos fibers during the disturbance of these materials.

In the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) implements and enforces state regulations which include all requirements of the Asbestos NESHAP. EPA has contacted FDEP's Tallahassee office to share the information that you provided for their investigation to ensure that asbestos-containing materials are properly handled during renovation/demolition activities at the facility.

Thanks,

Pam (b)(6)(b)(6)

From: Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Storm, Pamela <Storm.Pamela@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Hey Pam!

Looks like we have a joint public inquiry response for a prison with asbestos and mold. It mentions EPA condemning the building. Are you aware of this? I don't have any records from an indoor air quality perspective, but I'm relatively new to the role so I could be missing some information. Below is my response to mold. Let me know your thoughts and what to include for asbestos.

Thanks!

Mary

Below is my response:

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We recommend to [contact the Federal Bureau of Prisons](#) to address your concerns with them as well. You may wish to also file a complaint with [Florida Department of Corrections' Office of Inspector General](#).

Mold:

EPA's website provides information on [mold](#), its [effects on indoor air quality and health](#), and [guidance for addressing mold issues in homes](#). EPA does not test or inspect homes or businesses for mold, nor does EPA maintain a list of indoor air quality (IAQ) consultants to inspect homes or conduct indoor air quality testing. EPA cannot intervene in landlord/tenant issues.

If you are experiencing health effects that you think are attributable to mold in your home, please speak with a medical professional. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints. Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Mold does not have to be alive to cause an allergic reaction. Dead or alive, mold can cause allergic reactions in some people.

Mold is always caused by moisture or water present. To fix the water issue, it is important to determine where and how the water is entering the home. If there is a water leak, use a wet vacuum to remove the standing or pooling water, and fix the leak immediately. If there is condensation or humidity present, use a dehumidifier to keep the humidity level in your home below 60%, ideally between 30-50% if possible.

If there is a continuous water leak or structural damage caused by water intrusion, your local code enforcement official may be able to help. They may be able to inspect the property to ensure the building is up to code. Each town has their own rules and regulations regarding building codes and can inspect properties that may be in violation of those codes. Usually, there are no mold-specific codes, but there are codes that are related to mold growth (i.e. leaking roof, structural damage). For Tallahassee, you can [contact code enforcement here](#) or call them at 850-891-2633. You may also wish to contact [Florida Department of Corrections](#) here or call them at 850-488-5021. Prisons are unique, and you can contact your local code enforcement agency to find out more information on which jurisdiction prisons fall under.

The key to mold control is moisture control. If there is mold growth, you must clean up the mold **and** fix the water problem. If you clean up the mold, but don't fix the water problem, most likely, the mold problem will come back. If there has been a lot of water damage, and/or mold growth covers more than 10 square feet, you may wish to consult EPA guide [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings](#). Although focused on schools and commercial buildings, this document is applicable to other building types. In addition, if you choose to use a professional to do cleanup, you may want to ensure they follow the general principles outlined in this document when doing cleanup.

You may wish to contact your [local or state health department](#) or your [regional and state indoor air contacts](#) to share your concerns. Indoor air quality concerns in Florida can be addressed to [Florida Department of Public Health](#) or call them at 850-245-4288 or 800-543-

8279. The Leon County health department can be reached at 850-895-8363.

While you are removing mold from your home, there are a few different ways to improve your indoor air quality. Increase the amount of outdoor air coming indoors. If the weather allows, open windows and doors, operate window fans, or run a window air conditioner with the vent control open to increase the outdoor ventilation rate. Create a cross-breeze by opening up doors and windows across from each other. This increase of air flow will help to dry the area.

Another way to improve indoor air quality is to use an air cleaner such as a HEPA filter. HEPA air purifiers will collect mold spores, dust, chemicals, and other contaminants as the air passes through. Remember to follow the instructions for proper maintenance.

Asbestos:

Again, thank you for contacting the EPA.

From: Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:52 PM

To: Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Mary,

Please coordinate with ECAD (Pam Storm, I think) on the asbestos portion.

Thanks,

Ofia Hodoh, DrPH

Chief, Communities and Air Toxics Section

Air and Radiation Division

U.S. EPA Region 4

61 Forsyth St. SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Office (404) 562-9176 **EPA Mobile** (404) 809-1850

Email hodoh.ofia@epa.gov

From: Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:44 PM

To: Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Cc: Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Reynolds, Mary <Reynolds.Mary@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Hofia....you all have the pen on this one. Please work with ECAD (Pam Storm, I think) on the asbestos portion. Thanks.

Kenneth L. Mitchell, Ph.D. | Deputy Director |

Air and Radiation Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | 61 Forsyth Street, SW | Atlanta, GA 30303

Voice: 404-562-9065 | Fax: 404-562-9066 | Email: mitchell.ken@epa.gov

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From: Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:26 AM

To: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>

Cc: Ward, Nacosta <Ward.Nacosta@epa.gov>; McCorkle-Kester, Phalia <McCorkle-Kester.Phalia@epa.gov>; Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Thanks!

From: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:25 AM

To: Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>; Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>

Cc: Ward, Nacosta <Ward.Nacosta@epa.gov>; McCorkle-Kester, Phalia <McCorkle-Kester.Phalia@epa.gov>; Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Hodoh, Ofia <Hodoh.Ofia@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Hi Carol,

Since the requestor mentioned the air quality/mold inside of the prison, ARD can take the lead on the response with ECAD's input about the asbestos allegation.

Thanks,
Caroline

From: Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:13 AM

To: Russo, Todd <Russo.Todd@epa.gov>; Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Ken <Mitchell.Ken@epa.gov>; Lamberth, Larry <Lamberth.Larry@epa.gov>; Newman, Keriema <Newman.Keriema@epa.gov>

Cc: Ward, Nacosta <Ward.Nacosta@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

Caroline and Ken,

ECAD can provide language about the asbestos portion of the letter. We will work with FDEP on what the situation is regarding asbestos at the prison. I assume the email response may come from either division.

Thanks,
Carol

From: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:46 AM

To: Freeman, Caroline <Freeman.Caroline@epa.gov>; Kemker, Carol <Kemker.Carol@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

FYI

John Blevins
Acting Region 4 Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 4
980 College Station Road
Athens GA 30605

(b)(6)(b)(6) cell
706-355-8549 office
404-562-8231 (Atlanta Office number)

LSASD Mission Statement: To provide sound science to our customers through superior environmental evaluation.

LSASD Vision Statement: To be a solutions oriented organization, and seen as a leader in sound science through innovation, responsive customer service, and cutting-edge expertise.

Act with Urgency Every Day!

Sharpen the Saw!

From: Malik King (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:56 AM

To: Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>; Thomas-Burton, Tami <Thomas-Burton.Tami@epa.gov>

Subject: FROM FEDERAL INMATE RHONDA FLEMING AT FCI - TALLAHASSEE IN FLORIDA

To Whom It May Concern:

There are people I care about at FCI-Tallahassee, a federal women's prison. Your agency has condemned several buildings due to the air quality being unsafe, with high levels of toxic mold and asbestos. I would like to know why inmates are still living in these buildings, 18 months or more, after your agency has filed reports stating the buildings are unsafe.

Please use your enforcement authority to remove inmates from these housing units. Many of them are very sick. At least 160 have filed tort claims with the Regional Counsel's Office for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in Atlanta. The prison officials are aware of the problem and are doing nothing to protect the inmates.

Sincerely,

Malik